

February 17, 2005

To: Members of the CEQA Improvement Advisory Group

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your agreement to participate in the CEQA Improvement Advisory Group. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with more information about our meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and with some background materials to ensure that the meeting is as productive as possible.

As mentioned in my prior letter, the Governor has asked us to identify ways to encourage more efficient land use for new housing and infrastructure while minimizing project impact on sensitive habitat and productive farmland. Consistent with his State of the State address, the Governor has asked us to focus first on potential modifications to CEQA that would help the state meet its housing development goals while still protecting agricultural and resource lands. The consideration of these issues must be compressed into a short time frame, in order to enable legislation to be introduced by the end of March. We will have a longer time frame to address the Governor's broader goal of more comprehensive CEQA improvement. In light of this two-track approach, a major portion of our first meeting will focus on discussions of CEQA improvements for housing. An agenda for this first meeting is enclosed. A second meeting on the same issues is scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>, from 10 AM to 4 PM.

In connection with the housing-related focus of the first meeting, we are enclosing a document entitled "CEQA Improvement for Housing: Discussion Concepts" for your consideration.

In our January 28<sup>th</sup> letter, we asked for your response to the question "What improvements could be made to CEQA to encourage efficient land-use patterns in the development of housing and infrastructure while protecting valuable habitat and productive farmland?" Many of you provided us with thoughtful and thought-provoking responses to this question. We are enclosing these responses, which will form the basis for the Group's further discussions.

Finally, we are enclosing the list of persons who have agreed to participate in the Group as of the date of this letter. In light of the strong response, we have moved the meetings to a larger room. **Please note that the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be held in Hearing Room A at the California Energy Commission.** The Energy Commission is located in Sacramento at 1516 Ninth Street.

I will look forward to seeing you on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Sincerely,

Mike Chrisman  
Secretary for Resources

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